GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1732
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
WORLD BANK STUDY ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN NE REGION
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Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has undertaken a study for the development of natural resources in the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the study would help the growth of the Region;

(d) whether the investment proposals in this regard have been finalized;

(e) if so,the details thereof;and

(f) if not,the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)&(b) The World Bank has undertaken a study,`Development and Growth in Northeast India: The Natural Resources,Water,and Environment Nexus`,to develop a broad vision for water and natural resource development and management leading to sustainable and equitable economic development and growth in the region.The objective of the study has been to identify institutional reforms required for the more effective development of these resources,to prioritize investments in physical and institutional infrastructure, and to identify the options for harmonizing interventions that are being carried out by agencies in the area of water and natural resource development and management.The report is also posted on the Ministry`s website: www.mdoner.gov.in.

(c) The study suggests that appropriate water and forest development and management could provide major benefits in the form of hydropower,agriculture,inland water transport, biodiversity conservation,reduced flood damage and erosion, forestry and joint creation of ecotourism approaches and related infrastructure etc in the North-east Region. These benefits, which would accrue at both regional and local levels, would, in turn, directly and indirectly increase incomes and enhance economic growth and poverty reduction. It also suggests that trade and commerce between India and its neighbouring countries would be accelerated by the development of waterways in the North-east. The study report reveals that major benefits will accrue due to region-wide investments in the North-east. This will include investments not only in infrastructure but also in coordinated research and information-sharing. At the same time, this will also result in benefits at local levels with focus on community-based forest management, access to local markets for produce, enhancement of local inland water transport options; watershed management and local erosion control, local adaptation to floods and management of wetlands.

(d)to (f) Based on the above study,the Ministry is organizing consultations at various levels with all the stakeholders to finalize a concept note for preparing a comprehensive project on water resources development in the North-Eastern Region.